



ELIMINATING OVERDUE FEES

Removing Barriers
to Library Access

Aimee Fifarek

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Overdues Fines vs. Replacement Costs

- Most items have a 3-week checkout with 6 renewals
- Miss any renewal date and you can be fined \$0.10/day until you renew
- Don't return an item and we will bill you for the amount we paid for it

	fine	fine	fine	fine	fine	fine	
3-weeks	3-weeks	3-weeks	3-weeks	3-weeks	3-weeks	3-weeks	Replacement Bill
Checkout	Renew	Renew	Renew	Renew	Renew	Renew	LOST

- We are only planning to stop issuing overdue fines
- We will still bill for items not returned

Overdues are a TINY budget item



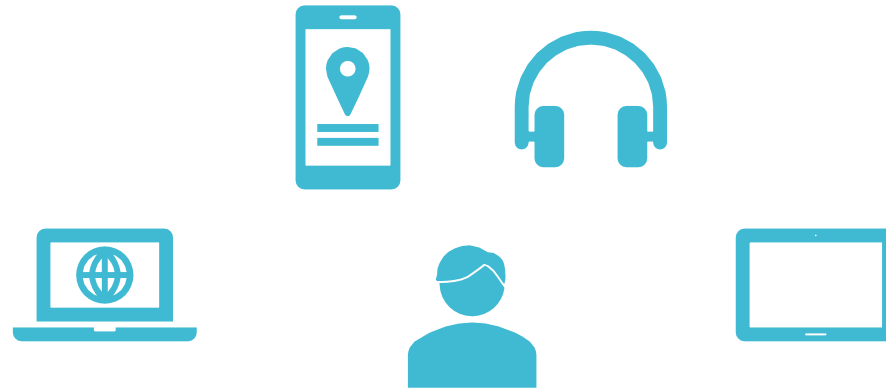
Receipts 2019

Public Library Fund	\$ 8,761,283	45%
Property Tax	\$ 8,912,695	46%
Fines & Fees	\$180,000	1%
Interest	\$ 366,576	2%
Intergovernmental, Rental, Misc.	\$1,249,902	6%

We earn more on interest than we do on fines, and that's before you take out replacement costs!

Fine revenue is decreasing

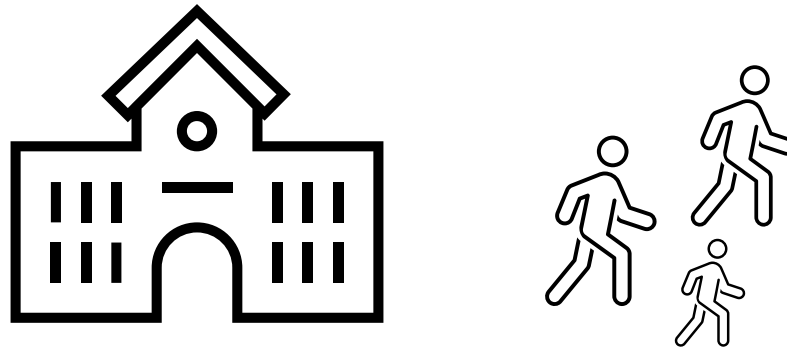
- There can be no late fees with ebooks – as their use grows this revenue will continue to shrink



- Now is the time to eliminate this from our budget and help the community.

Fining Patrons Costs the Library

- Mail, Postage, and Staff time to manage printed fine notices
- Staff time to manage email fine notices
- Staff time to answer questions about fine forgiveness
- And most importantly . . .




- People who don't become patrons or stop being patrons because they fear getting fines they can't afford to pay.

Very few people owe the Library money



Active Patrons	58,011	100%
Who check out Physical Materials	47,647	82%
And owe Money	13,953	24%
And owe more than \$25	3,403	6%
And are in Collections	1,280	2%



OVERDUE FINES
AREN'T
NECESSARY
AND IMPACT
THOSE WHO
CAN LEAST
AFFORD TO PAY

The most frequent
question we were asked
while closed:
*“When can I return my
books?”*

Improving Equity

“Increasingly, research shows that while people are equal in returning books after the due date, they are not equal in their ability to pay overdue fees and thus lose access to the library. This disproportionately harms people of color and people from lower-income households. We believe this policy change is essential to build a more equitable society.”

<https://www.pressherald.com/2020/08/08/maine-voices-our-love-letter-to-the-community/>



272 public libraries in North America have eliminated overdue fines

Eliminating Overdues will

1

Encourage people who are worried about fines to use the library

2

Eliminate a nuisance for people who were going to bring their materials back anyway

3

Demonstrate that we are doing what we can to help people in tough economic times

Concern for the Future

People are getting in
the habit of not using
the library...

...and that's bad for
business

**Now is the time to eliminate overdue
fines and bring people back to PLYMC!**

Welcome
Back!



MAKE IT EASY



MAKE IT
FLEXIBLE



LIMIT LIABILITY

Make It Easy



Eliminate Overdue Fines

Simplify Library Card Types

Make It Flexible



Implement Autorenew

Have a "Clean Slate"
Amnesty Campaign

Limit Liability



Reduce # of items out at
one time

Reduce total time an item
can be kept out

Clean Slate Month

During December 2020, speak with a staff member and we will:

- waive all existing fees
- take back long-overdue items
- Issue a replacement card

Start 2021 with a Clean Slate!

